Our Belgian Friends!

September 2005

L-R Front: Huegette SMET Van Meerbeek; Roger LECUT; Louis BEULLENS; Willy HANNON; Jacques JACQMOT. L-R Back: ***Adhémar VAN MEERBEEK; Roger MAWET; Genevieve SELLIER; Jose MAYNE; Lucienne MARICQ Hannon; Marcelle GUEULETTE Beullens; Monique WINAND; Marianne VANDERKELEN; Back: Liliane LESAGE Mawet; Mathilde MOUTOY; Coline BURNY. Jacqueline – where are you??***

Seventeen Belgian visitors flew into Chicago on July 7th. Our welcome committee consisted of approximately 12 members who rode along on the bus, and a few of our members who live in Chicago that met us at the airport. Also joining us was Ryan Johnson who flew in from Oregon to surprise Adhemar and Huegette - his Belgian host family in 2004. Ryan returned with us on the bus and spent time catching up with the Van Meerbeek's. The bus arrived in Champion early evening and the Belgians were greeted by friends, family, and club members. We're thankful to St. Josephs Church in Champion for allowing us to use their facilities for the "Welcome" get-together, the church members who volunteered their time to serve the luncheon, and to all of our members who provided food for the event.

Other activities planned for the Belgians during their visit included a "Door County Trolley" tour that began at the downtown Historical Museum in Sturgeon Bay where everyone had the opportunity to view the Belgian display, Indian artifacts, and other items of interest. Many recognized familiar Belgian names and photos posted on displays throughout the museum including one of our club president, Jim Lampereur, that was taken when he was a young boy on the farm. Our two very full trolley's then headed north along the shoreline towards Carlsville, Egg Harbor, and Fish Creek with stops at a roadside market, Simon Creek Winery for a little taste testing, lunch at Alpine Resort, Eagle Bluff Lighthouse tour, and our final stop was at Schopf's Hillside Dairy for ice cream.

The traditional "Farewell Dinner" for the Belgians was held at Andres Food and Spirits in Sturgeon Bay - - 106 people attended; an excellent turnout! Entertainment was provided by Agatha Hendricks playing the accordion. Thank you Agatha!

Several of our Belgian visitors also attended the annual Belgian Days festivities in Brussels, Wisconsin, and our monthly club meeting.

A Big THANK YOU to all of our host families!!